



Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program

Postdoctoral Fellowship Description

CLINICAL FOCUS

Title: Postdoctoral Fellowship in Neuropsychology and Intervention

	Yes	No
APA-accredited:	X	
Fellowship primarily allows for Telework:		X
Fellowship primarily allows Telesupervision:		X
Fellowship primarily uses Telehealth:		X

Site/Employer: Veterans Affairs Providence Healthcare System (Major, 16 months)
Butler Hospital (Minor, 8 months) / Care New England (Employer)

Supervisor(s): Donald Labbe, PhD (Primary Supervisor)
Emma Gosselin, PsyD
Emily Hallowell, PhD
Megan Spencer, PhD
Ryan Van Patten, PhD, ABPP-CN

Butler Hospital (Minor rotation supervisors)

Nicole McLaughlin, PhD (Primary Supervisor)
Farah Aslanzadeh, PhD
Meghan Collier, PhD
Athene Lee, PhD
Louisa Thompson, PhD

Description of Site

This two-year fellowship is part of the Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Program (CNSP) within the Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program (PFTP) of The Brown Clinical Psychology Training Consortium. Training will occur at hospital affiliates of The Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Trainees will spend 8 months at their primary site (VA providence Healthcare System) and 4 months at their secondary site (Butler Hospital) per year, spending 70% of their time on clinical activities, 20% on research, and 10% on structured didactics across the two years. Training is consistent with Houston Conference Guidelines and meets requirement of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) / American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABCN) board certification. Efforts are underway to ensure that the program's training model is also fully aligned with the Minnesota Conference Guidelines.

Providence VA Healthcare System

The VA Providence Healthcare System (VAPHS) serves as one of the major teaching hospitals for Psychiatry at Brown. The VAPHS is a 75-bed facility that provides acute inpatient and outpatient care in psychology, psychiatry, medicine and surgery to veterans in Rhode Island, eastern Connecticut, and

southeastern Massachusetts. Outpatient veterans' medical needs are managed through the primary care service with referrals available to 32 subspecialties. The VAPHS has the highest ratio of outpatient-to-inpatient services in the entire VHA system and with over 150,000 patient visits annually it ranks among the largest clinical facilities in Rhode Island.

The structure of this fellowship places the fellow at VAPHS for 8 months and 4 months at a partner site (Butler Hospital).

The Neuropsychology service at the VAPHS is staffed by five neuropsychologists (Megan Spencer, PhD; Donald Labbe, PhD; Ryan VanPatten PhD, ABBP-CN, Emily Hallowell, PhD, and Emma Gosselin, PsyD). The clinic also comprises one pre-doctoral neuropsychology resident, one neuropsychology and one intervention fellow (this fellowship description), one practicum student, one full-time psychometrist, and one half-time psychometrist. The service collaborates closely with other providers in Mental Health and in the Neurology and Primary Care Services. The Neuropsychology Service offers neuropsychological assessment and cognitive training services. Neuropsychology staff and fellows also serve in consultative roles to multidisciplinary clinics, including our Polytrauma/TBI clinic as well as our local Parkinson's Disease Research, Education, and Clinical Centers (PADRECC) team.

Outpatient Neuropsychology Service: The neuropsychology service at the VAPHS performs 12-15 neuropsychological assessments of U.S. Military Veterans per week with wait times of approximately 6 weeks. Fellows are involved in all aspects of the evaluations and typically see 2-3 cases/week. The majority of consultation requests are for outpatient assessment of neurodegenerative disorders of aging (e.g., mild cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, etc.), often in the context of multiple medical and psychiatric comorbidities. Other common referrals are for assessment of cognitive status related to chronic medical conditions, stroke, substance use disorders, traumatic brain injury, attentional disorders, learning disabilities, movement disorders, and psychiatric impairment. Inpatient referrals are also received from medical and psychiatric units, with referral questions most commonly addressing suspected dementia and/or decision-making capacity among older adults.

Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC): The VAPHS has CBOCs in Middletown, RI (MID) and in New Bedford (NBD) and Hyannis (HYA), MA. All three CBOCs provide primary care, mental health, and other outpatient services. Neuropsychological assessment services are provided by the fellow once monthly at the NBD CBOC and serve a disproportionately diverse veteran population including bilingual speakers and 1st and 2nd generation Portuguese and Cape Verde immigrants.

Cognitive Training: Drs. Labbe and Gosselin lead the Cognitive Training Services at VAPHS. Services include a 6-week group cognitive training course, healthy cognitive aging psychoeducational series, and the ADHD Brain Gym. All cognitive training services are offered in group or individual format. Services are provided virtually and face-to-face. These services are offered to veterans with multiple presenting conditions including ADHD, mild traumatic brain injury, stroke, MCI, PTSD, depression, etc. Fellows will have the opportunity to lead each of these groups as well as individual sessions under supervision from Drs. Labbe and Gosselin.

Parkinson's Disease Research, Education, and Clinical Centers (PADRECC) team (Year 1 only: This team is led by movement disorders specialist, Dr. Victoria Chang, and comprised of Nursing, OT, PT, SLP, Neuropsychology, Respiratory services, Geriatric Psychiatry, and Nutrition. The team meets monthly with complicated movement disordered patients in a group format with each discipline contributing to care planning (as indicated). The fellow serves as a consultant for questions related to neuropsychological testing and psychotherapy when appropriate. This team meets the first Thursday of each month 1 half day/week.

Supervision of Advanced Practicum Students: Fellows typically supervise a minimum of 2 neuropsychological assessments per month with our advanced practicum student using a tiered supervision model. Prior to assuming the role as supervisor, fellows must demonstrate sufficient competencies in all aspects of neuropsychological assessment to ensure ability to provide quality supervision. Fellows supervise all aspects of the case, including pre-case preparation, clinical interview, testing, scoring, and draft report. The attending neuropsychologist provides training to the fellow on the process of supervision with the practicum student. The neuropsychologist also offers in-room supervision of the student's pre-case preparations as well as first line report edits so that the fellow is able to receive feedback on supervisory skills.

Optional Second Year Rotations:

Polytrauma/TBI Clinic (Year 2 only): Trainees may have the opportunity to conduct assessments of military deployment-related traumatic brain injury in the Polytrauma/TBI Clinic. The neuropsychology service plays a leadership role in the PVAMC's Polytrauma/TBI Clinic which provides clinical assessment and ongoing care of veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan with deployment-related traumatic brain injury. The neuropsychology training experience emphasizes the impact of psychiatric, neurological, and general medical conditions on cognitive functioning. Participation in this clinic occurs in year 2, 1 half day/week.

Clinical Resource Hub (CRH): Trainees may have the opportunity to complete a rotation through the CRH, a fully virtual care platform that serves veterans across the New England Area. In this clinic, Dr. Hallowell provides video-based neuropsychological assessments to a satellite facility or into veteran's homes to provide care to veteran's who may have limited access to services. Consultation requests are broad with primary referrals from neurology, primary care, and mental health. Trainees will learn about the administration of testing in a virtual format, discuss strengths and limitations of this modality, and receive exposure to hospitals across the New England region.

The structure of this fellowship places the fellow at the Providence VA for 8 months and 4 months at a partner site (Butler Hospital-see below). In year 2, the fellow returns to the VA for an additional 8 months, with 4 additional months at another partner site (Butler Hospital or *RI Hospital).

Year 1 VA training activities include: Neuropsychological assessment, provision of Cognitive Training and the Healthy Cognitive Aging interventions (group and individual), and participation as a member of the Parkinson's Disease Research, Education, and Clinical Centers (PADRECC) team. Supervision of an advanced practicum student may also be considered dependent upon the fellow's progress and assessed readiness to act in a supervisory capacity.

Year 2 VA training activities include: Neuropsychological assessment and participation in the ADHD Brain gym (group and individual). In addition, trainees will be offered the opportunity to seek additional training through ongoing involvement in the PADRECC, or additional training in the Polytrauma/TBI clinic and or Clinical Resource Hub clinic. Supervision of advanced practicum students also occurs in this year assuming adequate readiness for this role.

Butler Hospital (minor rotation):

Founded in 1844, Butler Hospital is Rhode Island's only private, non-profit psychiatric hospital for adolescents, adults, and seniors. Butler is affiliated with Alpert Medical School of Brown University and is the flagship psychiatric hospital for its Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior. During the neuropsychology fellowship rotation at Butler Hospital, the fellow will function as a member of the treatment team on the geriatric unit and participate in outpatient evaluations within the Neuropsychology Program. Specifically, the fellow will assess 3-5 patients per week across the inpatient and outpatient service programs. A primary focus will be working with the inpatient geriatric unit, carrying out neuropsychological evaluations for consultation questions related to depression, psychosis, and cognitive

decline. They will attend multidisciplinary rounds on this unit several times per week, assisting the team in making diagnostic, treatment, and placement recommendations. In addition, 2-4 times per month, they will participate in outpatient evaluations within the Neuropsychology Program with adults 18 and older, with a focus on older adults.

¹A minor training rotation may be available at *Brown University Health Neuropsychology Program, Rhode Island Hospital (RIH)* in Year 2. Incoming fellows will receive assessment/consultation experience in both inpatient and outpatient medical settings. Inpatient consultation referrals come from all medical and surgical specialties, as well as inpatient psychiatric services, across the hospital. Referral questions include issues of decision-making capacity, differential diagnosis, rehabilitation needs, and disposition. The incoming fellow will interact with a variety of allied health professionals and have close contact with referring providers, conduct bedside assessments, and write same day targeted reports. The outpatient neuropsychology service receives referrals predominantly from internists and neurologists, with questions of differential diagnosis and treatment planning for a wide range of adult and geriatric patients. Referral questions include those with mild cognitive impairment/dementia, multiple sclerosis, stroke, TBI, movement disorders, epilepsy, and neuropsychiatric disorders. In both settings, there are also opportunities to conduct non-English speaking evaluations with medical interpreters. Fellows will conduct 3 outpatient evaluations per week and service the inpatient neuropsychology service 1 day per week (1-2 brief bedside evaluations).

Fellowship Aims

1. To provide the fellow with broad post-doctoral training in the area of hospital-based adult neuropsychology.
2. To provide the fellow training in the provision of empirically validated cognitive interventions, including tailoring personalized neurocognitive interventions based on neuropsychological results.
3. To develop competency in the supervision of neuropsychology trainees at the advanced practicum level.
4. To provide the fellow with the skills necessary function as a member of a multidisciplinary team.
5. To mentor the fellow in conducting clinical research focused broadly on aging/dementia.

Fellowship Timeline

The duration of the fellowship is 2 years, contingent upon satisfactory progress.

Clinical Activity Plan (70%)

The fellow in this position will devote 70% effort to supervised clinical activities and all clinical activities are supervised.

Training will emphasize development of clinical independence. The fellow's specific clinical training plan (e.g., didactic experiences, direct patient care, research, etc.) and criteria for competency will be determined collaboratively at the start of the training year. The training plan will be based on the fellow's

¹ At the time of this postdoctoral fellowship announcement the RIH training option is currently under active negotiation and cannot be guaranteed. In the event this rotation is not available, fellows will rotate to Butler Hospital for a 2nd 4-month cycle.

career goals, specific areas of clinical interest, and areas in need of further development and will promote independent competency in:

- At the *Providence VA*, the primary activity (approximately 40%) will be performance of outpatient neuropsychological assessments at the PVD site and once monthly at the NBD CBOC, averaging 2-3 outpatient assessments/week. Supervision of PVD cases will include all five neuropsychologists listed above on a rotating basis. Dr. Labbe will supervise assessments performed at the CBOC site. The fellow will be involved in all aspects of neuropsychological clinical assessment including triage and clarification of referral questions; review of medical records; neurocognitive diagnostic interviews; test selection, administration; scoring; interpretation, report writing; and providing written and verbal feedback to veterans, referring providers, and other relevant stakeholders. Approximately 30% of the fellow's activities will be involved in delivering evidence-based and neuropsychologically informed interventions, participating as a member of the PADRECC multidisciplinary team. This will include delivering individual and group cognitive training interventions as well as Healthy Cognitive Aging interventions and intervention through the ADHD Brain Gym. The fellow will be required to participate in these secondary clinical activities on a regular basis throughout the two-year postdoctoral residency period. Drs. Labbe and Gosselin will supervise intervention activities.
- At *Butler Hospital*, the fellow will attend multidisciplinary rounds on the inpatient geriatric unit several times per week. The fellow will assist the team in making diagnostic, treatment and placement recommendations. The fellow will assess 4-5 patients per week from the geriatric, adult, and Memory and Aging Program populations at Butler Hospital. They will conduct 2-4 inpatient evaluations per week, primarily from the geriatric inpatient unit, but possibly from other units depending on the flow of the consult service. They will also assist with outpatient evaluations 2-4 times per month. Assistance is sometimes available from neuropsychology residents, practicum students, and technicians.

Research Activity Plan (20%)

The fellow in this position will devote 20% effort to clinical research. The goal is for the fellow to demonstrate the ability to develop meaningful scientific questions and hypotheses to advance knowledge in the field of neuropsychology. Clinical research will be conducted at the VA Providence Healthcare system or at partnering sites within the Brown University clinical psychology program.

Opportunities for clinical research with neuropsychology faculty or other faculty at VAPHS will be explored and arranged by Dr. Labbe in collaboration with Dr. Jennifer Davis (Director of the Brown University Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Program, and Neuropsychologist at RI Hospital). The fellow's research activities will be negotiated based on faculty active research projects and collaborations and the fellow's interests and career goals. Alternative research experiences can be developed with VAPHS faculty in related fields on a case-by-case basis.

The fellow will be expected to develop a research plan that leads to a traditional scientific product such as a manuscript, presentation at a national conference, or grant application. The fellow is expected to generate and test research hypotheses, conduct literature searches and complete guided readings relevant to the research topic, and participate in laboratory meetings as appropriate. Opportunities for supervising undergraduate students may be possible. The research plan is expected to be partially independent from the supervisors but may build upon the supervisor's work and can be done in collaboration with ongoing research in the supervisor's lab. Neuroimaging projects, when available, will be implemented using existing data.

Didactics (10%)

The fellow in this position will devote 10% effort to participation in formal didactic activities as follows:

Mandatory Didactics:

Core Seminars (1 per month during first year of the fellowship).
DPHB Academic Grand Rounds (1 per month).
Clinical Ethics (1 per month during the first year of the fellowship).
CNSP Seminar (weekly during both years of the fellowship).
Providence VA Neuropsychology Service Cranium Club (weekly)
Brain Cuttings, Medical Examiner's Office (required once during fellowship but may attend more frequently)

Optional Didactics:

Memory and Aging Program Case Conference, Butler Hospital (weekly).
MHBSS Colloquium Series, Veterans Affairs Medical Center (monthly).
Neuropsychology Grant Writing Seminar (1/month)
Other Brown, and hospital didactics may be attended with permission from the primary supervisor.

The fellow will be given release time from clinical responsibilities to participate in mandatory didactic activities.

Supervision and Evaluation

A minimum of two hours of supervision will be provided weekly. Supervision in the neuropsychology clinic follows an "open door" approach in which each case is reviewed with the fellow on a flexible schedule. Supervision is done through a combination of face-to-face meetings and electronic correspondence (e.g., editing reports).

Dr. Labbe will serve as the primary supervisor and will have ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the fellow has a successful training experience. Dr. Labbe will have strong supervisory support from Drs. Spencer, Van Patten, Hallowell, and Gosselin. The fellow will also receive additional direct supervision from CNSP neuropsychology faculty located at the supplemental rotation sites. The fellow may, at times, receive supervision from other faculty not listed above. However, these supervisors will not supplant the supervisory team listed above without modification of this Postdoctoral Fellowship Description. Primary research supervisor will be determined based on availability of VA research projects and trainee interests.

At the conclusion and midpoint of the fellowship, the fellow and the supervisors will provide formal evaluations and evaluations of the program relative to the goals and learning objectives of the fellowship. Formal evaluations will follow the format and utilize forms provided by the Consortium.

Please visit the [Brown Faculty](#) page to view supervisor profiles.

Resource Requirements

Fellow will be provided with the following resources:

- Personal office Space
- A computer and project specific software
- Internet access
- Telephone
- VA issued laptop computer

Reporting and approval

This fellowship is part of the Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Training Program as described above (Fellowship Organizational Structure).

The position has been discussed and approved by the Neuropsychology Track faculty.

Director, Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Program

Associate Director, Clinical Neuropsychology Specialty Program

Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program